

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

W. A. DREW EDMONDSON, in his )  
capacity as ATTORNEY GENERAL )  
OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA and )  
OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF THE )  
ENVIRONMENT C. MILES TOLBERT, )  
in his capacity as the )  
TRUSTEE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES )  
FOR THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA, )

Plaintiff, )

vs. )

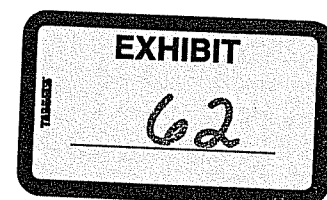
TYSON FOODS, INC., et al, )

Defendants. )

4:05-CV-00329-TCK-SAJ

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VOLUME I OF THE VIDEOTAPED  
30(b)(6) DEPOSITION OF TEENA GUNTER, produced  
as a witness on behalf of the Defendants in the  
above styled and numbered cause, taken on the 27th  
day of August, 2008, in the City of Oklahoma City,  
County of Oklahoma, State of Oklahoma, before me,  
Lisa A. Steinmeyer, a Certified Shorthand Reporter,  
duly certified under and by virtue of the laws of  
the State of Oklahoma.

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**918-587-2878**



1                                   TEENA GUNTER  
2       having first been duly sworn to testify the truth,  
3       the whole truth and nothing but the truth, testified  
4       as follows:

5                                   DIRECT EXAMINATION

6       BY MR. HIXON:

7       Q       Can you state your name for the Record,  
8       please?

9       A       It's Teena Gale Gunter.

10      Q       And, Miss Gunter, what's your current                   09:20AM  
11      position?

12      A       I'm a deputy general counsel at the Oklahoma  
13      Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry.

14      Q       How long have you been in that position?

15      A       In that position, approximately probably four           09:20AM  
16      years.

17      Q       Okay, and prior to that position, what  
18      position did you hold?

19      A       I was a staff attorney with the Oklahoma  
20      Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry in the               09:21AM  
21      agricultural environmental management services  
22      division.

23      Q       Okay, and how long did you hold that position?

24      A       I don't remember exactly when I switched to  
25      that position. I held another position before that,           09:21AM

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1 Q Okay, and a spring in the middle of my field,  
2 is that something that would be taken into  
3 consideration in my animal waste management plan?

4 A It would, but it's a matter of is it an annual  
5 stream, is it year round, does it always have flow 04:03PM  
6 or is it only certain times of the year, and is that  
7 all taken into account, and then are there certain  
8 times of the year after a big rainfall in another  
9 area of the state that infiltrates groundwater, does  
10 it come up through that field and create a runoff 04:03PM  
11 problem from that site. I mean, there's just so  
12 many different ways that it can occur.

13 Q Okay. We need to change tapes. We'll take a  
14 little break.

15 VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now off the Record. 04:03PM  
16 The time is 4:03 p.m.

17 (Following a short recess at 4:03 p.m.,  
18 proceedings continued on the Record at 4:15 p.m.)

19 VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the Record.  
20 The time is 4:15 p.m. 04:15PM

21 Q Miss Gunter, before we went on break, we were  
22 talking about this Paragraph 7C in the regulations.  
23 You've given several examples. Would you agree with  
24 me that there has to be a violation of the animal  
25 waste management plan before there can be a runoff 04:16PM

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1 in this as --

2 A No.

3 Q No. So your testimony is I can -- Farmer

4 Jones, he can observe everything that's required of

5 him in his animal waste management plan and he can

04:16PM

6 still be in violation of this Paragraph C?

7 A The animal waste management plan is one piece

8 of the statutory requirements, and there are many,

9 many, many requirements in that animal waste

10 requirement plan. However, throughout the statute

04:16PM

11 there are also things regarding -- for example, look

12 at the BMP section that we talked about a second ago

13 in the statute on the 10-9.7, no discharge of

14 poultry waters to waters of the state. No waters --

15 well, there's a given, but poultry waste handling,

04:16PM

16 treatment, management and removal shall not create

17 an environmental or a public health hazard, not

18 result in the contamination of waters of the state

19 and conform to such other handling, treatment,

20 management and removal requirements deemed necessary

04:17PM

21 by the department. Again, in the statute under C6C,

22 poultry waste shall only be applied to suitable land

23 at appropriate times and rates. Discharge or runoff

24 of waste from the application site is prohibited. I

25 mean, all of those things work together to create

04:17PM

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1 the provisions that Farmer Jones has to comply with.

2 Q Okay. How does Farmer Jones comply with all  
3 of those if it's not the animal waste management  
4 plan?

5 A He's extra careful and he evaluates his field 04:17PM

6 and he looks at them, and if he can -- the waste  
7 management plan is a ceiling in many cases. There's  
8 all kinds of level you can land apply at that don't  
9 have to be as much as the waste management plan says

10 at every occasion. You can ratchet that down, and 04:18PM

11 you can land apply a little whenever you think it's  
12 a time of year that may not be your best time of

13 year that runoff can occur. You can take all kinds  
14 of steps in addition to your plan. I mean, your

15 plan is let's do this, but it's you better not do 04:18PM

16 beyond this as far as application and things like

17 that go, but there's a million levels below that a

18 responsible farmer, as the farmer you described, can

19 look at, and if he wants to say, okay, well, my

20 waste management plan says I can do this, but my 04:18PM

21 soil test, for example, at the bottom, OSU says

22 don't go above 65. Okay. I'll not go above 65

23 because that's the plant utilization, that the crops

24 might not take up more than that. So if I'm going

25 to be over the top careful and not create an 04:19PM

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1 environmental or public health hazard, not create  
2 runoff, I'm more likely to be better off if I use  
3 that requirement or that suggestion from the soil  
4 result.

5 Q Okay. Does the OSU soil sample test, do those 04:19PM  
6 have the effect of law?

7 A You have to prepare your waste management plan  
8 taking into account the soil test results.

9 Q Okay, but the OSU soil sample tests results  
10 that I've seen have N, P and K and it has -- 04:19PM

11 A And results for that specific field.

12 Q -- a recommendation. Does that recommendation  
13 have the effect of law?

14 A The recommendation on it is one of the things  
15 that's taken into account in the plant, and it's 04:19PM  
16 information for the farmer to take into account to  
17 ensure compliance, but the -- where is it? Where am  
18 I looking? Let me look at my rules for a second.

19 There's something that talks about it. It includes  
20 all nutrient analysis data, including soil and 04:20PM  
21 poultry waste testing, and I'm talking about  
22 17-5-5A3. So that document is incorporated as a  
23 part of your animal waste management plan.

24 Q Okay. Does the recommendation that appears on  
25 that soil sample test, does that trump what it says 04:20PM

1 you can apply in your animal waste management plan?

2 A No. It's one of the many factors that you  
3 look at in the -- a plan is not rote, thou shalt do  
4 this, that shalt do this and you'll never have a  
5 problem. A plan is just exactly what it says. It's

04:20PM

6 a plan. Here's guidelines. Here's things you need  
7 to take into consideration. Yes, you're required to  
8 take these things into consideration whenever you  
9 are doing your land application but, again, it's

10 very similar. You don't want to exceed what they

04:21PM

11 recommend in that plan, but all of that

12 documentation should be taken into account by the

13 individual producer when they're making sure they're

14 in perfect compliance with the entire law.

15 Q Okay. My question still remains, how do they

04:21PM

16 know if they're in compliance with the entire law?

17 You testified just a moment ago that there are a

18 million levels below this animal waste management

19 plan ceiling.

20 A I keep using a million, don't I?

04:21PM

21 Q Yeah.

22 A It's a good number I guess.

23 Q At what point -- how do I know if I'm in

24 operation and I've got this animal waste management

25 plan, at what level of these million levels do I

04:21PM

1 know --

2 MR. LENNINGTON: Objection to form.

3 Q -- am I in violation of all of these laws and  
4 regulations?

5 A You can ensure that if you do the sampling. 04:22PM

6 You can go above and beyond all of these things, any  
7 of the basic requirements listed in your plan. You  
8 can do -- you can get additional education. You can  
9 get someone to come out from the extension to give  
10 you additional guidance. You can go to NRCS and ask 04:22PM

11 for additional guidance, I mean, beyond what they  
12 put together in their plan. All of these things are  
13 free services that are provided to farmers in  
14 virtually every county in the country. You can

15 go -- you've got your soil test results. He looks 04:22PM  
16 at those soil tests results. He sees that

17 recommendation and says, hey, okay, that's another  
18 way I can maybe ensure because I know that's lower  
19 than this number, but I want to ensure that I'm in

20 compliance and don't have any runoff. You put in 04:22PM

21 grass buffer strips, all of those kinds of things  
22 that you choose to do. I mean, you are talking  
23 about the quintessential farmer that wants to do  
24 everything perfectly, and he can do his own sampling

25 and make adjustments if he wants to or he can work 04:23PM

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1 with an entity to do his own sampling downstream --  
2 above and down, and he'd have results that he could  
3 see if he's contributing and, I mean, that's just  
4 another tool that is available to him.

5 Q Okay. To do his own sampling? 04:23PM

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. Up and downstream?

8 A It's possible.

9 Q Okay. What does the State of Oklahoma do to  
10 verify or to determine whether an owner or operator 04:23PM  
11 of a poultry facility subject to the Registered  
12 Poultry Feeding Operations Act is in violation of  
13 this Paragraph 7C or any of these other provisions  
14 that you've specified?

15 A Our minimal starting point is look at the 04:23PM  
16 plan, look at their land application records, look  
17 at their soil test records, look at their litter  
18 analysis records.

19 Q Okay, and how can you tell whether there's  
20 runoff if you look at the animal waste management 04:24PM  
21 plan?

22 A Then you compare that to -- you compare that  
23 waste management plan to all the record keeping that  
24 they've done. As a whole, you do a site inspection.  
25 It's not something obviously that you can do just in 04:24PM